EUROSMART RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES STANDARDS MAKING PROCESS
EU CONSULTATION ON ICT STANDARDISATION

Brussels, August 2006.

The EC ordered a study to collect from major standardisation stakeholders their experience and views on the EU policy arena and at the international level.

The Smart Card industry in Europe, represented by the international association Eurosmart, shares the concern of the European Commission for the establishment of **common open ICT standards defining exchanges at clearly identified interfaces and enabling competition to play.** Eurosmart considers that the multiplicity of standards is not a good thing, as they divide the market, generate confusion, adversely impact emergent markets and finally result in less profitable industrial activities due to lack of harmonisation.

However in the ICT sector, the multiplicity of non-formal consortium was stimulated by the too long procedures inherent to any consensual process, and also by the fact that proprietary technology is difficult to standardise in official bodies even if the patent holder wants to.
In this respect, the effort made by CEN in order to speed up the process for standards-setting can be outlined. This effort, jointly with a more open approach for the standardisation of proprietary technology should tackle the multiplicity of forums. Of course, patent holder must play fair and share the technology according to RAND [1] terms.

More generally, a good standard is the results of technical-economical compromise responding to present and future market needs and also encouraging innovation. The good standard lets the door open for future products guaranteeing legacy with the existing ones. This is very precisely this condition that enables the periodic roll-out of new technology with limited extra-investment effort.

The EC must play a leading role for the promotion of common accreditation processes and the mutual recognition of certification practices between Member States.

In that sense Eurosmart addresses the EC **the following recommendations:**

‣ **Support in a more explicit way the acceptance of common standards by Member States**. CEN must be clearly identified as the ICT preferential European standards body acting under EC supervision and policy, with the political support of the Member States. This would leverage the importance and impact of European standards on the global market and facilitate the export of products integrating these standards.

‣ **Further communicate on the European standardization action** especially to non-EU standards bodies. European representatives are often invited to present the progress of the European standards making process in other regions, but it is still difficult to finance such activities of promotion by private undertakings.

‣ **Enhance its relationships with the official standards bodies** through the identification of issues where the coordination between governments and industry is required. DG Enterprises is the entity empowered to assume that coordination work.

‣ **Avoid promoting competition between standards bodies and clearly separate scopes**. CEN should be mandated as the standards body in charge of creating those standards identified by the EC as key for growth of ICT markets.

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[1] Reasonable and Not Discriminatory rules (RAND) usually required by official standards bodies

‣ **Make sure that European standards requirements align with the best practices technically feasible**, in terms of functionality, performance and quality. European industry should be stimulated to align on top "state of the art" as an effective barrier against imported commodity products.

CEN TC224[2] has proved its ability to generate consensus and to produce the series of European standards needed to support the issuance and operation of new identification electronic documents. According to Eurosmart, the **next standardisation activities of the CEN should concern the following issues:**

‣ **Payments** : the SEPA (Single European Payment Area) and the New Legal Framework for Payments (NLF) are going to impact some functional and security features for payment cards;
‣ **Telecom** : EC's proposal for regulation of international roaming services is likely to have an impact on the design of mobile cards;
‣ **e- Government services**: the development of online public services and their use across borders relies on interoperability and common standards;
‣ **Radio Frequency products** (contactless readers) in terms of frequency, spectrum and EMI;
‣ **Internet global standards:** EU industry is not present enough in this domain where the US computing and communications undertakes are prevailing. Wireless technologies as well as Global Security standards are also US-led;
‣ **Biometrics** : this emergent technology is currently subject to intensive standardisation effort where clearly European industry has to progress;
‣ **e-Inclusion** : the identification of functionalities that could facilitate the use of ICT technologies by citizens, especially the persons with specific needs, such as the requirements for an Inclusive European Society of Information - CEN TC224/ WG6 is responsible for the definition of standards in this area.

EUROSMART is the Brussels based international association representing the Smart Card Industry for multi-sector applications. Through its activities, Eurosmart act as a catalyst and forum for the smart card stakeholders. In a global environment, Eurosmart encourages interoperability through international cooperation. Eurosmart achievements have been acknowledged by the smart card community as "the voice of the experts".

Eurosmart members are: ASK, Aspects, Atmel, Austria Card, Bundesdruckerei, DataCard, FNMT, Galitt, Gemalto, GIE Cartes Bancaires, Giesecke & Devrient, Infineon Technology, Ingenico, MasterCard, Moneyline, Nedcard, Oberthur Card Systems, Philips Semiconductors, Renesas Technology, SagemOrga, Samsung, Saqqarah Int, Sharp, SST Company, STMicroelectronics, Watchdata, Wave.

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[2]   CEN/TC 224 was established by a CEN Technical Board decision BTC 193/1989. Since its first meeting in February 1990, more than 60 standards were adopted as a response to the market requirements in various areas related to card systems characteristics :

‣ Cards (including all physical, electrical, logistical and protocol specifications)
‣ Devices (including all physical, electrical, logistical and protocol specifications as well as ergonomic aspects and transaction management)
‣ Communication (all protocols between cards devices and hosts)
‣ Applications (banking, surface transport, healthcare, telecommunications)
‣ Personal identification including authentication, confidentiality
‣ Electronic signature
‣ Card life management